



St. Aidan's
Society

2025 Annual Report



Empowering Seniors,
Strengthening Community

Table of Contents

About Us	1
Our Values, Mission & Vision	1
Strategic Objectives	1
Message from Board Chair	2
Executive Director Message	3
Core Funders	4
St. Aidan's Society Team	5
2025 Staff	5
2025 Board of Directors	
Our Impact in 2025	6
Outreach & Advocate Program	6
Link Program	7
Financial Security	7
Volunteer Program	8
Age Well At Home	9
Meal Preparation	9
Advocacy Through Action	10
Education & Awareness Sessions	10
Taking Action Against Elder Abuse	10
World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD)	11
The Tomorrow Project	11
Senior Supports Programming	12
Christmas Support	12
Lawn Maintenance	13
Seniors' Week Tail Gate Tuesday	13
Seniors' VIP Movie Event	14
Arts in Action Collaborative	14
Community Projects Portfolio	15
The MAC Community Calendar	15
Seniors' Directory	15
Seniors' Calendar	15
Financials	Appendix A

About Us

Our Values

St. Aidan's Society staff share a core set values and beliefs. These values and beliefs guide staff as they deliver programs and services and are as follows:

- ▶ All people have an inherent right to be free from neglect and abuse.
- ▶ All people deserve compassion and support.
- ▶ All people, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, cultural background, religious affiliation, or socio-economic status must be treated with dignity and respect.
- ▶ All people have strengths and existing skills and these strengths and skills should be leveraged and used to help those in need achieve personal, meaningful change that can be sustained over time.
- ▶ Staff are always accountable to make decisions that are in the best interests of the people served.
- ▶ Staff must continuously strive to improve the quality of the programs and services delivered.
- ▶ Staff must measure and evaluate how successful programs and services are at making a positive impact on the people served and the community.

Mission

To ensure that older adults are valued, respected, and have opportunities to thrive in community.

Vision

Older adults experience improved quality of life as they age.

Strategic Objectives

- 1** Enhance the level of knowledge and awareness of older adult needs and strengthen the commitment to building a community that is inclusive and supportive of older adults.
- 2** Foster relationships and build the knowledge, skills, and experience of individuals and agencies to strengthen the community's overall capacity to support older adults.
- 3** Develop, deliver and evaluate inclusive programs that help older adults age in the community with dignity, respect and a high quality of life.

Message from the Board Chair

Greetings,

One of the great privileges of serving as Board Chair for St. Aidan's is hearing, time and again, how deeply this organization is respected in our community. Rarely do I mention my connection to St. Aidan's without someone sharing a story about the difference the agency has made in their life, or about Luana Bussieres, and the lasting impression she's left. People light up when they talk about her. They describe her as a dynamo: insightful, driven, and profoundly committed to the seniors we serve. Those conversations always remind me that the heart of St. Aidan's has always been its people.

This past year was both memorable and emotional as we celebrated the remarkable contributions of Luana and Sandy Grandison, who retired together after decades of exceptional service. Their leadership has shaped St. Aidan's into an organization admired across our region and looked to well beyond it as a model of excellence.

Luana's leadership style has always stood out. She led with professionalism and high expectations, demanding accountability and integrity from her team while making sure they cared for themselves in the difficult work of caring for others. A social worker at heart, she brought a certain edge and a dry humour that only those who serve in challenging spaces can truly understand. That mix of rigour, compassion, and resilience has left a lasting mark on St. Aidan's, creating a culture where people show up fully for the seniors they serve and for each other. The board witnessed that same dynamic during our meetings; her reports were always thorough, candid, and delivered with the kind of dark humour that reminded us why her leadership inspired such loyalty and trust.

Sandy's contribution has been equally profound. Her quiet strength, reliability, and wisdom have steadied this organization through times of both growth and challenge. Throughout, she has been a colleague, mentor, and friend whose calm, thoughtful presence helped shape St. Aidan's into the compassionate, trusted agency it is today.

As we turn to a new chapter, we are thrilled to welcome Pam Burns as Executive Director. Pam's long history with St. Aidan's means she knows this organization inside and out. She brings experience, authenticity, and an unwavering commitment to seniors, qualities that will keep our mission thriving.

To our incredible staff, volunteers, partners, and funders, thank you for making St. Aidan's what it is. The care you offer, the trust you build, and the dedication you show each day are what make this organization so deeply respected.

As a Board, we are proud of the legacy we inherit and excited about the future we're building together. The heart of St. Aidan's is strong, its purpose is clear, and its impact continues to grow.

With appreciation,

Jay Bueckert
Chair of the Board

Message from the Executive Director



As I reflect on 2025, I do so with gratitude and pride. This year marked not only another chapter in our organization's story, but also the closing chapter of my nearly 25 years of service with St. Aidan's. On January 9, 2026, I retired from a role that has profoundly shaped my life and has been an honour to hold for almost a quarter century.

Serving seniors has never been simply a job to me. It has been truly a privilege. My time here has been shaped by relationships, trust, advocacy, and a deep respect for the lived experiences of older adults. I have been continually inspired by the strength, resilience, and wisdom of the seniors we serve, and I know our organization will continue to meet them with the dignity, compassion, and meaningful support they deserve.

Throughout 2025, our organization continued to respond to growing and increasingly complex needs within the senior community. Demand for services remained strong, underscoring both the relevance of our work and the responsibility we carry. What has sustained us through growth, change, and challenge has been an unwavering commitment to outcomes, accountability, community connection, and service. I leave knowing the organization is strong, trusted, and well positioned for the future.

None of this would have been possible without the extraordinary team I have had the privilege to work alongside. They are the heart of St. Aidan's. They have made me shine as Executive Director. Day after day, they bring professionalism, empathy, and a genuine passion for service, always showing up for seniors in moments that matter. Their dedication, creativity, and unwavering belief in our mission has not only strengthened the organization but has inspired me personally. I am endlessly grateful for their commitment and the joy of working alongside such remarkable and fierce individuals.

I am profoundly grateful to the Board of Directors for their leadership, governance, and strategic vision. They have provided a strong and steady foundation for the organization. I have never stood alone in this role, but that truth became especially clear during an unimaginably difficult period in my life when the Board's compassion, understanding, and unwavering support went far beyond governance. By allowing me the time and space needed to navigate my husband's terminal diagnosis, treatments, and ultimately his passing, they demonstrated leadership rooted not only in accountability, but in humanity. I will always be deeply thankful for the care, trust, and respect they extended to me, and for the strength and stability they ensured for the organization during that time.

As I step away, I do so with confidence in the future under the leadership of Pam Burns. Pam is a longtime employee whose commitment to seniors and to this organization runs deep. I have also had the privilege of knowing her as a friend for three decades, and I know firsthand the knowledge, dedication, and integrity she brings to the table. As a social worker, she brings professional expertise, a genuine passion for service, and a deep understanding of our mission and history. Her experience and commitment will help ensure St. Aidan's continues to thrive in the years ahead. To know the agency is in such exceptional hands is a privilege not afforded to many exiting Executive Directors.

To our volunteers, partners, and funders, I thank you for walking alongside us and for believing in the importance of our work. Your contributions and collaboration have strengthened our impact and extended our reach across the community.

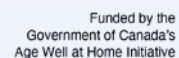
Finally, and importantly, I also want to acknowledge Sandy Grandison, who retired on the same day as I did. For nearly four decades, Sandy and I shared a close friendship as well as a deep commitment to this agency. During some of the most difficult moments of my life, when my husband was sick and ultimately passed, Sandy quietly stepped up to lead the agency, even while she herself was also grieving. Throughout the years together, she quietly offered wisdom, support, and strength in ways that often went unseen but were always deeply felt. Her dedication, insight, and unwavering commitment to the organization have been a cornerstone of the agency's work. I feel incredibly fortunate to have had her by my side on the journey. Thank you, Sandy, for the impactful role you played in shaping this agency and best wishes as you move forward in your next chapter.

As I close this chapter, I do so with immense gratitude and pride. I leave knowing the organization is in strong hands, supported by an exceptional team, a dedicated Board, and a community that cares deeply about seniors. Thank you for allowing me the honour of serving in this role. It truly has been a privilege.

Luana Bussières
Executive Director

2025 Core Funders

We are deeply grateful for the steadfast support of our core funders - their continued commitment has been essential to our mission and impact.



St. Aidan's Society Team

2025 St. Aidan's Staff



Luana Bussieres
Executive Director

Sandy Grandison
Community Projects
Facilitator

Pam Burns
Community
Development
Strategist

Kimberley MacDougall
Seniors Outreach
Worker

Donya Salari
Seniors Outreach
Worker

Carla Cooper
Seniors Volunteer
Coordinator

Lisa Stewart
Link Worker

Lisa Doornbos
Link Worker

Chido Sandati
Age Well At Home
Worker

Megan Follett
Age Well At Home
Worker

2025 Board of Directors

Jayson Bueckert
Board Chair

Philip Kilpatrick
Treasurer

Lindsey Thibeau
Secretary

Tim Byron
Director

Harvey Tulk
Director

A heartfelt thank you to all of our donors, partners and volunteers for their considerable support throughout 2025!

Our Impact in 2025

In 2025, our exceptional team, with the support of dedicated volunteers, proudly delivered a range of inclusive initiatives and essential services across all program areas. We provided personalized support and resource connection fostering independence, and strengthening social connections for a diverse and growing senior community.



787 Unique Seniors Served (3818 total)

239 Volunteers

2439 Volunteer Hours

I just love that St. Aidan's is "there" for us and how much it's grown in the last few years. Your presence is comforting, helpful, user friendly, supportive, and kind. Thank you.

- Local Senior

Outreach & Advocate Programs

Outreach is a core service of St. Aidan's Society. Using the determinants of healthy aging, professional assessments are completed and support plans developed to ensure seniors have the services and support they require to meet their unique needs. Seniors are continuously supported through a case management model and experience improved quality of life. Various factors such as the complexity of situations that are being supported, the high cost of living, and the growing senior population in the Wood Buffalo Region are noteworthy for us as we move into the future.

501 Case Management Meetings with Seniors

532 Case Management Phone Calls

75 Unique Seniors Served

107 Brokered Referrals

287 Supported Referrals

Link Program

The Link Program is the first point of access for our services and is a simplified and streamlined process that ensures seniors receive the unique support they need. Support includes: connection, information, navigating systems, providing direct support and accessing programs. Our Link Workers use a holistic, wraparound approach to ensure older adults are able to access essential community resources, including our internal programs. For longer term more complex needs, referrals are made to our Outreach Team for more intensive support.

418 Unique Seniors Served

394 Consultations

1460 Referrals to other programs & services

My parents and I are truly in awe after our meeting, we were not aware of any such programs. Thank you for opening doors for us.

– Adult daughter

Financial Security

Financial security continues to be a significant concern affecting senior well-being. An increase in the local senior population, retirement transition, navigating systems, as well as the current economy are related factors. The Link Workers continue to focus on increasing the financial knowledge of seniors using in person workshops that empower them with tools to improve their financial stability, and ensuring that the financial supports are accessed. This service is provided across the Wood Buffalo Region.

Given the high demand, we have utilized a collaborative approach involving government agencies to provide multiple types of financial workshops.



9 Workshops Held
4 Urban & 5 Rural

132 Urban Seniors Served

59 Rural Elders Served

Volunteer Program

Our Volunteer Program provides meaningful connections between compassionate community volunteers and seniors, helping to reduce social isolation and loneliness while enhancing quality of life. The program cultivates relationships that bring companionship, joy, and a sense of belonging through conversation, and shared activities that enrich their lives.

Additionally, Volunteers play a vital role in helping seniors stay connected to their community by helping with essential tasks such as shopping, attending medical appointments, and navigating everyday challenges.



- 34** Volunteer & Senior Matches
- 234** Home Visits
- 130** Community Outings
- 211** Phone Calls
- 1494** Volunteer Hours



I enjoy volunteering with seniors because I've always loved being around them. They bring so much wisdom, kindness and perspective into my life. Every conversation feels like a gift, reminding me of the beauty in stories, experience and human connection.

- Kelly Bussieres, 5-year St. Aidan's Volunteer



Volunteering with the elderly has taught me the importance of compassion, patience and connection. It has been a rewarding experience for me and knowing that my children are watching makes it even more special. My wish is that it inspires them to volunteer and care for others as they grow.

- Iman Abadi, 5-year St. Aidan's Volunteer

Age Well At Home

The Age Well At Home Program empowers seniors to lead healthy, safe, and independent lives, through practical non-medical home support that enables them to maintain their independence and age comfortably in their own homes, for as long as possible. Additionally, this program is an opportunity to connect program users to needed resources as they move through the aging journey, reducing the need for emergent care or hospitalization.

As the aging population continues to grow in the Wood Buffalo Region, the need for this program will become increasing critical, thereby we are using our existing program data and the 2025 Population Census to examine the growing need and hoping to expand these services in the coming year.

151 Unique Seniors Served

1359 In-Home Services Delivered

375 Light Housekeeping Tasks

49 Laundry Assistance Services

404 Meal Preparation Supports

1416 Intervention Supports Provided



Meal Preparation Program

This partnership with RE/MAX Connect Fort McMurray and the Wood Buffalo Food Bank has allowed us to continue to provide healthy, balanced meals for seniors in our Age Well at Home program. This is a demonstration of how volunteerism and shared resources can be used to enhance the nutritional lives of older adults.

Meal Program in partnership with:



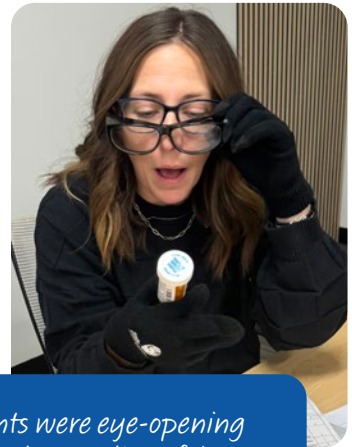
Advocacy Through Action

Finding impactful and effective ways of creating systems change is a foundation of our advocacy efforts and the core of social justice work. The needs of seniors transcend sector boundaries between health systems, housing systems, community services and all levels of government. Engagement by our team on multiple levels, provides opportunities for increased education and awareness. We represent senior needs on multiple committees and boards and leverage this involvement to influence change for the aging population.

Age Sensitivity Education & Awareness

Participants of our Age Sensitivity Training gain an understanding and empathy for older adults through experiential learning. It is open to the community four times during the year, and we work with FuseSocial to support the marketing and registration for the training. It can also be tailored for groups and organizations.

Through specialized trainings and workshops, and the facilitation of campaigns and events, the community gains an increased understanding of the unique needs of seniors. This results in an improved quality of life for our region's older adults.



The interactive components were eye-opening and gave us a clearer understanding of the realities older adults may face in their day-to-day lives. Your approach made the material both engaging and impactful, and it sparked meaningful conversations among our team about how we can be more aware and supportive in our roles.

- Age Sensitivity Participant

46 Participants Served

3 Sessions Hosted



Taking Action Against Elder Abuse

In partnership with the Alberta Elder Abuse Awareness Council (AEAAC) we hosted a one day training with 33 participants to increase their knowledge about the signs of elder abuse and how to support those who are experiencing it, or at risk of being mistreated. **Growing the Conversation** about elder abuse in our community builds capacity to increase safety and wellness for seniors. This project improves the quality of life for these older adults and grows community capacity for caring for older residents.

33 Participants Served

1 Session Hosted

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

June 15th is nationally recognized as a day to raise awareness about the issue of abuse and neglect of older adults. St. Aidan's Society has been leading this awareness effort in the community for over 10 years. In 2025, the goal was to increase awareness amongst the general population. The team, along with Senior volunteers attended the Fort City Car Show where there was a cross section of community members.

- 746** Community Attendees
- 4** Volunteers
- 22** Volunteer Hours



The Tomorrow Project

The Tomorrow Project has continued to utilize the strategic plan to advance the collective approach to addressing the service gaps relating to the needs of seniors in the Wood Buffalo region. By collaboratively addressing the needs of Seniors, the partners are contributing to building a community where seniors thrive and are valued for their contributions.



The commitment and innovative approach of the Tomorrow Project partners was recognized through a Minister's Senior Service Award. St. Aidan's is proud to be a part of this great work, and remain dedicated to advancing the work of this project to improve the quality of life for the seniors in our region.



seniors SUBSECTOR

Senior Supports Programming

Christmas Support Packages

With staff planning, volunteers to prepare ahead of time, volunteers the day of, and in-kind and monetary donations, the St. Aidan's Team continued the annual tradition of a meal, connection to resources, and a personal visit leading into the holiday season. It is an opportunity to touch lives at an important time of year.

459 Seniors Served
255 Volunteer Hours
51 Volunteers

With volunteer support from:



A lovely family came to our door to gift us a fabulous lunch from St. Aidan's. We waved goodbye to the delivery team and blew them kisses from the front window as they drove away. They lowered their vehicle windows and blew kisses back. We set the CD player to play Christmas music, we put the kettle on for a pot of tea, we sat at the table and lit a Christmas candle, we ate our lunch with relish. And now we thank team St. Aidan's who gave us that Hallmark Christmas lunch.

Because of sickness, we had missed Festival of Trees, YMM Christmas Party, all of the markets and the Seniors Mayors lunch etc. We are mending but not fully cleared of sickness. It seems that St. Aidan's doesn't leave anyone behind. It also means that you know we are here, the healthy and the sick.

We are truly grateful and we appreciate the work involved in making this happen. It honestly means the world to us that you feel that we are worthy of so much effort on your part.

- Christmas Support Package Recipients



Senior Lawn Maintenance Project

Spring and Fall are times that require extra yard maintenance. With the support of Suncares volunteers, St. Aidan's Society improved the emotional wellbeing and quality of life of older adults by providing this support. The expression of gratitude from seniors for this service and positive feedback from volunteers, is evidence of making a difference in the lives of seniors.

27 Homes **48 Seniors Served**

74 Volunteers **533 Volunteer Hours**



Thank you for adding me to that program, it was a big help, hope we will have it again next year. Thanks so much.
- Home owner

Thank you. And those kid's who do the work are wonderful. Thank you so much, it is a wonderful service that you have going for us seniors.
- 83 year old home owner

With volunteer support from:



Seniors' Week Tail Gate Tuesday

Seniors Week is a provincially recognized initiative celebrated annually in June. St. Aidan's hosts an event to celebrate and honour the valuable contributions of seniors in our community, which also provides social activity and connection.

126 Seniors Served

In partnership with:



Seniors' VIP Movie Event

Attendees receive VIP treatment as they are “greeted, seated and served” by St. Aidan’s team members, alongside the Regional Emergency Services team. They enjoy a free movie, popcorn, drink and treats. It is a popular event, and for some it is the only time of year that they watch a movie in the theatre, and for others it is the first time that they have been to the theatre. Being active in the community is key to healthy aging. The benefits are obvious with all the smiling faces at this event.



116 Seniors Served
13 Volunteers
32 Volunteer Hours

Arts in Action Collaborative

St. Aidan’s Society and Arts Council Wood Buffalo collaboratively offer this popular arts program. It utilizes local artistic talents to enrich the lives of those older adults who want to explore the creative side of life.

173 Seniors Served

In partnership with:

9 Workshops Held



ARTS COUNCIL
WOOD BUFFALO



Community Projects Portfolio

The MAC (McMurray All Connected Community Calendar)

The MAC Calendar was started by St. Aidan's Society in 2014 to address a need that was identified at the 2013 Convergence Conference. The Calendar has evolved and changed since it first launched, and we are excited to support the next big shift.

The Mac Calendar (hosted by St. Aidan's Society) is merging with Wood Buffalo Volunteers (hosted by FuseSocial) to create a new, unified platform: LoveWB, stay tuned!

2657 Events Captured

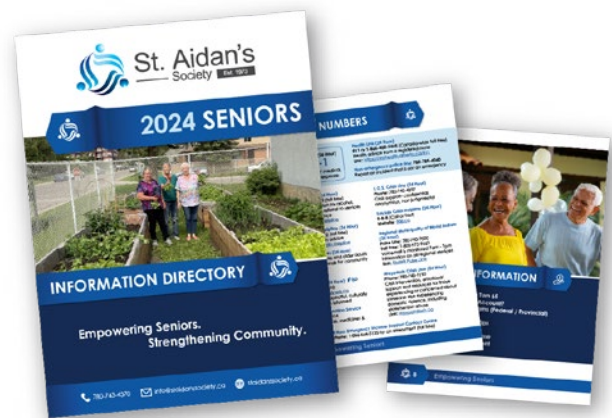
74635 Site Visitors

355,637 Page Views

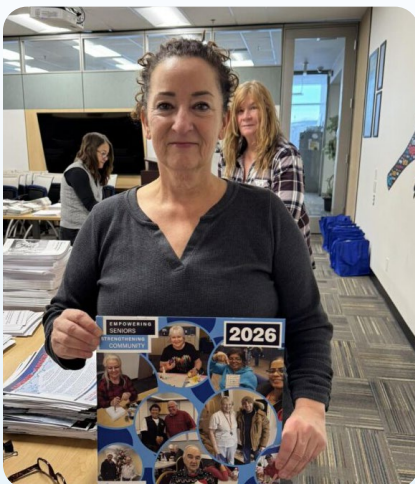
Seniors' Directory

The Seniors' Directory has continued to serve as a vital tool to support the informational needs of older adults, family members, caregivers and professionals. It is a trusted source of local, provincial and federal information related to aging.

The Directory is available in both print and digital format on our website. Updated printed versions are coming in 2026.



63 Distribution Locations
Across the Wood Buffalo region



Seniors' Calendar

Our annual wall calendar is designed to increase awareness about age related topics, and also acts as a home management tool to help older adults keep track of important dates. We strive to get these directly into the hands and homes of seniors.

1000 Copies Printed & Distributed

49 Distribution Locations
Within Fort McMurray and into all rural communities



With over **2400 Volunteers hours** utilized in 2025, **Volunteers** play a valuable role in supporting delivery of programs & initiatives to senior residents in our community.



Day of the Older Person
 In recognition of this day, St. Aidan's participated in the 2025 Senior's Wellness Expo. It was a free community event promoting information, programs and services related to the aging population that are available in our region.



About St. Aidan's

St. Aidan's Society is a local social profit organization that was established in 1973, with a vision of creating a positive community impact.

We are working to enhance the lives of older community members in the RMWB, through leadership in the areas of advocacy and in the delivery of services to meet the complex needs of older adults. We believe in partnerships and working in collaboration to provide quality services and support to anyone 60+ experiencing age related challenges.

“Aging is a journey, not a problem to be fixed.”

~ Author Unknown



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🌐 staidansociety.ca 📱 @staidansociety

📍 The Redpoll Centre at SMS Equipment Place